

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS**  
**MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING**  
**September 21, 2005**

**\*CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**\*OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

**\*ATTENDANCE**

**Present:**

Chair Eleanor R. Montano  
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos  
John A. Hammargren  
Carl E. Moore

**Excused Absence**

Vito Cannella  
Frank S. Bacio  
Maxine B. Russell

**Others Present**

Jim Corbett, Asst. Chief,  
Detta Roberts, Commander,  
Sheriff's Department  
Dr. Michael Maloney, Program Head,  
Women's Mental Health, Twin  
Towers, DMH  
Candace Rhue, Auditor-Controller  
Cheryl Epps, DCFS  
Kathy New, Probation

**\*APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 7, AND 14, 2005**

This item was deferred to a future agenda.

**\*CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Montano briefly reviewed a September 16<sup>th</sup> L.A. Times news article regarding a 20-year-old patient of the Metropolitan State Hospital who

hanged herself. The article states that this incident is the fifth unusual death at Metro since February of 2004.

She also reviewed a recent news article pertaining to inmates being detained past their release dates. Dr. Michael Maloney, Program Head, Women's Mental Health, Twin Towers, noted that this was a problem several years ago but not in recent years. He noted that there have been some "misinterpreted" late releases, i.e. an inmate was released by L.A. County, but San Bernardino County had placed a hold on that individual so they were further detained pending turn over to that department. He assured the Commission that this type of thing is an isolated incident and that there are not numerous individuals who are held past their release time/date.

Additionally, she reviewed a September 17<sup>th</sup> Daily Breeze news article which reported that five teens were removed from the Second Chance in Carson, which was one of the two homes the Auditor-Controller's office asked the Commission to inspect.

The second home the Auditor-Controller's Office requested the Commission to inspect was the Advantage Living Home in Buena Park, for which the Commission issued a negative report. Following that report, Candace Rhue, Auditor-Controller's Office, advised that on August 15<sup>th</sup> she attended a Community Care Licensing (CCL) meeting with the owners of the Advantage Living Home. Ms. Rhue reported that the meeting included numerous representatives who also had issues with that facility. Ms. Rhue noted that the group home staff was very defensive and seemed unconcerned with the proceedings. Among the numerous directives given to the group home owner were to:

- Immediately stop sending the residents to the school with what the department deemed inappropriate curriculum;
- Stop using that school for the residents' individual and group clinical therapy sessions;
- Hire a full-time administrator for the facility;
- Provide on-site staff training;
- Meet with the police department regarding the numerous complaints from the facility's neighbors and the more than 97 police reports filed in less than one year; and
- Hire a qualified psychiatrist. T

The facility owner was given 30 days to correct these issues. The Commissioners will do a follow-up inspection at the end of that time. Cheryl Epps, DCFS, noted that her department has placed this facility on a Hold Status and will most likely follow up with a No Not Use directive, at which time, the County residents would be removed and relocated to another home.

Kathy New, Probation, advised that her department is currently working with DCFS to develop better communications and more standardized reporting tools between their departments in order to more effectively deal with this type of situation and have a County-wide response rather than a departmental response. Additionally, Ms. New noted that they are working towards a central group home tracking database program which can be utilized by both Probation and DCFS and would track group homes' performance. Commissioners noted that their more serious concern is that the County Social Workers seem to be ignoring unacceptable conditions at a number of homes and are not reporting these conditions to their departments for corrective actions.

#### **DEPARTMENT UPDATES ON FACILITY OPERATIONS**

**Sheriff's Department:** Commander Deta Roberts, Twin Towers, advised that every command has a yearly review and Command Inspection of their facility's emergency preparedness, evacuation drills and contingency plans.

**Department of Children & Family Services:** Cheryl Epps, DCFS, reported that Teen Focus and Child Focus Group Home on Brushton Street have relinquished their group home licenses. Ms. Epps noted that she was informed that the owners were planning to open another facility under a different name and only accept Probation minors. Ms. Epps then passed this information on to Probation. Kathy New, Probation, advised that the owner did indeed attempt to open under another name but, because of the information provided by DCFS and Probation's investigation, the owner was denied.

Commissioners thanked DCFS and Probation for their excellent work on this matter and noted that this was an excellent example of departments working together and sharing information.

**Auditor-Controller:** Candace Rhue reported that  
**Department of Children and Family Services:**

**Department of Mental Health:** Vice Chair Stathatos asked if female inmates were released late at night and very early in the mornings when buses are not in service. Dr. Michael Maloney, Twin Tower, reported that female inmates are released over a 24 hour period depending on their arrest time.

#### **\*TREASURER'S REPORT**

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to a future agenda.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

#### **FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS**

##### **Leroy Boys Home - #62-3**

Chair Montano inspected this facility on August 11<sup>th</sup> and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported. Chair

Montano noted that she was impressed that this facility has a full calendar of daily activities, outings, and entertainment for the residents. She further noted that this facility is a model for others to follow.

##### **Manna Manor/Marbella - #67-1**

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammagren visited this facility on August 15<sup>th</sup> and found no one at home; no inspection was conducted.

##### **Mozell Pennington Boys Center - #70-3**

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren inspected this facility on August 15<sup>th</sup> and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

##### **L.A. Youth Network - #61-3**

Commissioner Bacio inspected this facility on August 11<sup>th</sup> and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

Commissioner Bacio noted that he spoke with several residents who seemed happy and well adjusted; all facility staff seemed to have a good working relationship with the residents.

**Michelle Travis/41<sup>st</sup> Street - #69-1**

Commissioner Bacio inspected this facility on August 16<sup>th</sup> and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

Commissioner Bacio noted that the facility was being painted and that the carpet was to be cleaned.

**Penny Lane /Wilbur - #87-2**

Commissioner Russell inspected this facility on August 15<sup>th</sup> and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

Commissioner Russell noted that residents see a therapist twice a week; CSW's visit residents at school; residents are good students with one having straight A's; and that residents go swimming almost daily.

**Penny Lane/Hayvenhurst - #87-3**

Commissioner Russell inspected this facility on August 15<sup>th</sup> and gave a rating of **Satisfactory**. Area of concern: although there is an AWOL Incentive Program in place that awards the whole house a monetary reward for no AWOL's, they still have a problem. Commissioner Russell noted that the rooms are clean; the residents get vacations; tutoring is available after school; and that facility staff reported that Probation is cooperative and that DCFS is very busy.

**Penny Lane/Osborne - #86-1**

Vice President Stathatos inspected this facility on August 11<sup>th</sup> and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

**Aviva Center/Camino Palmero - #4-3**

Vice Chair Stathatos inspected this facility on August 15<sup>th</sup> and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

**NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Montano assigned inspection duties to Commissioners for the following week.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Commission Staff**